

THE
TRIAL
OF
Capt. Thomas Wallcott
FOR
HIGH-TREASON.

In Conspiring to compass the Death of *His Majesty*, and
to subvert the Government.

Who was Tryed this 12th. of July, 1683, at the Sessions-House in the
Old-Bayly, and there found Guilty of the said High-treason.

Being an Impartial Relation of the most Materials during the said Tryal.

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As likewise what occurred in Relation to
James Duke of Monmouth, Ford Lord Gray, and others.

This day the Session of Oyer and Terminer began in the *Old-Bayly*, where after some
Proceedings against Felons, &c. the Grand Jury for *London* found the Bills of High-
Treason against **James, Duke of Monmouth, Ford Lord Gray, Captain Thomas**
Wallcott, John Rouse, William Blake, William Hone, and divers others; whereupon the four
last, viz. *Wallcott, Rouse, Hone, and Blake*, were brought to the Bar, and there severally
Arraigned for High-Treason, in Conspiring the Death of the King, &c. after which, Cap-
tain *Thomas Wallcott* was alone brought to his Tryal, and having put himself upon God and
his Country; was ordered to look to his Challenges, as the Jurors came to the Book to be
sworn, of which he excepted against, about Ten or Eleven, and the Kings Counsel a-
gainst one.

The Court having thus far proceeded, the Indictment was Read, the substance of which,
was, That he *Thomas Wallcott*, the Prisoner at the Bar, had on the second of *March* last past, and
at divers other times, Conspired with many Traitors, whose Names were therein recited, in the
Parish of St. Nicholas Basshaw, and in sundry other places, to Depose the King from his
Right and Title to the Kingdom of *England*, &c. And not only so, but Him to Assassi-
nate, and to final destruction, and to Subvert the Government, to raise Rebellion
through the Land, and a miserable Slaughter to make amongst his Subjects throughout
the Kingdom, and that in order thereunto, he had provided Arms, as *Blunderbusses*,
Muskets, Pistols, &c.

After this, Mr. *North*, one of the Kings Council, opened the nature of the Fact, also
what particulars the Evidence were to give, and declared the Hainousness of the Fact:
being seconded by the Mr. *Attorney General*, who at large declared the Conspiracy, as it
was laid in all, or most of its Circumstances, how, according as the Evidence had
Deposed in Council, it was Contrived, Mannaged, and carried on. And after him,
Mr. *Serjeant Jefferies* laid down such Material Points as the other had omitted, aggravating
the Hainousness of the Crime, declaring, and laying open at large, the Damnable Treas-
on and Conspiracy, desiring the Jury well to consider the weight of the Cause they
were to determine; and adding, that if the several particulars were proved against
the Prisoner by the Witnesses for the King, who had been for the most part privy to
the whole Design, they would like good *English-men* and Christians, find the Traitor
Guilty.

The Kings Council having laid open the Indictment, the Evidence were called; the first was Colonel *Rumsey*, who Deposed, That for a considerable time past, there had been a Design carried on by divers disaffected Conspirators, against the Life of His Sacred Majesty, and that in order thereto, divers Consults had been held, and sundry Devices proposed, to bereave His Majesty of His Life, and Crown; and that at most of those Consults, Captain *Walcot* had been present, and consenting to the Models laid and designed, to effect the horrid Treason, to raise a Rebellion throughout the Nation, to root out the Legal Line, and Repose the Power in the People. Nay, so far had they proceeded, as to settle a Form of Government amongst themselves, and appoint Rulers and Officers, to Mannage the Affairs, relating to Government; and computed what numbers might be raised in such places, where the Conspirators had most Interest, 1000. at least, being to be raised in *Wapping*. But whilst this Device was in hand, another was thought of, which was to Assassinate the King, in His return from *New-Mercat*, the last time he was there; The Conspiracy and Plot to bring it to pass being thus laid, several persons were to use their Interest, to raise Men for that purpose, who were with Carbines, Musquets, Pistols, &c. to be Armed, and ly in Ambuscade in *Rumbold* the *Master's* House, near *Hodsdone*, and to send several persons in Countrey Habits, to over-through a Cart, to stop the Passage of a Lane, the King's Coach was to pass; upon which designed stop, about fifty Men well appointed, were to have Sallied out, *Rumbold* being appointed to kill the King, and the Duke of *York*: others to kill the Horses, Coach-man and Postilion, and the Prisoner, with a Commanded Party, to fight the Guard himself; as he declared to the Evidence, thinking it the braver part of the Action, as thinking it beneath him to Assassinate a Naked Man; but this Plot miscarrying by reason of the Fire, divers others Projects were laid to take away the Life of His Majesty, the Conspirators meeting frequently to Consult how to bring about their pernicious Design: all which by the Discovery, were frustrated.

The next Evidence that deposed, was Mr. *Keebing*; who declared, That he had been privy, for some Months past, to the Conspiracy, and had been at divers Consults, Wherein the Destruction of the King was proposed and agreed on, as the only expedient to further their purpose; and that by *Goldenough*, and others, he had been solicited to raise Men for the *New-Market* Expedition, which he at first boggl'd at; and that at sundry times the Prisoner had been at the said Consults, and approved of the proceeding, himself being to have a principal Command, and to be aiding in the Assassinating the King; and being by the Court demanded what induced him to discover? He declared, it was the secret impulse of his Tormented Conscience, which would not suffer him to rest, till so great a wickedness was made known. This being the substance of his Depositions, Mr. *Bourn* was Sworn, who gave Evidence in effect to what the former had deposed: Then Mr. *West* stood up, and declared the manner of the Contrivance of the Plot, together with the several Declarations that were to have been disperled, if the Design had taken effect, also the many other Wicked designs to take away the Life of the King, as at the *Play-House*, *Ball-Feast*, and upon his coming from *Windsor* in his Barge; declaring that he had bought Arms for that purpose, with many other Circumstances; Charging the Prisoner in particular. There was likewise two Letters under his Hand proved in Court, one to Sir *Lyonel Fekins* to implore the Pardon of His Majesty, in lieu whereof he promised to discover the whole Design layed in *England*, *Ireland*, and *Holland*; which as he said, none could do better then himself. Another was intercepted by Captain *Richardson*, directed to a friend of his, to perswade Colonel *Rumsey*, and Mr. *West*, to be tender of him in their Evidence; To these positive Evidences, his answers were for the most part but feeble; he alleadged himself indisposed of the Gout at the time it was alleadged he went; to see how fit *Rumbold's* House was for the purpose, and the impossibility of his bringing such things to passe as were Sworn against him; yet Confessing that he had often associated himself with the Conspirators, but hoped though he had some knowledge of the Design, that it would amount to no more than misprison of Treason; but being confuted of his Error by the Court, after the Evidence was Summed up, and the Charge given, the Jury, after a short Debate, found him Guilty of the Treason as in the Indictment layed.